

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) ~~An integrated~~ integrated fluid treatment module comprising:

[[-]] a support element according to claim 4 147;

[[-]] at least one blood treatment unit engaged to the support element; and

a fluid distribution circuitry associated ~~to~~ with the support element and cooperating with the treatment unit.

65. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 64, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuitry comprises at least a blood line having a blood withdrawal branch and a blood return branch.

66. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~9 or 64~~ 65, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blood line is secured to the support element on one of said first and second opposite shorter sides having the curved portion.

67. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 66, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blood line is secured to the support element so as to define at least a one tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, the tube length being designed to cooperate with a respective pump.

68. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the U-shaped tube length extends inside the peripheral wall of the support element.

69. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the positioning projections act on the U-shaped tube length of the blood line to keep its said U-shaped tube length in a constant position.

70. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tube length of the blood line secured to the support element is defined by the withdrawal branch.

71. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 64, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuit further comprises at least an intake line for a fresh dialysis liquid.

72. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 6 ~~or~~ 71, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the intake line for fresh dialysis liquid is fastened to the support element on one of said first opposite longer sides.

73. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 72, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the intake line for fresh dialysis liquid is secured to the support element so as to define at least a tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, said tube length being designed to cooperate with a respective pump.

74. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 72, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the U-shaped tube length extends inside the peripheral wall of the support element.

75. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~33~~ or 71, characterized in that wherein the intake line is secured to the main body on the support structure element, at least an inlet length of the intake line being engaged into a main seat of the a positioning fin and to the a respective engagement connector, at least an outlet length of the intake line being engaged into a main seat of the positioning fin and to the a respective engagement connector.

76. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 75, characterized in that wherein the inlet and outlet lengths engaged to the respective engagement connectors are placed in rectilinear arrangement, said inlet and outlet lengths being and are parallel to one another.

77. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 75, characterized in that wherein the outlet length has a branching branches into an intake branch designed to convey the fluid to the blood treatment unit, and into an infusion branch designed to convey the fluid into the blood line.

78. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 77, characterized in that wherein the branching of the outlet length into said infusion branch and said intake branch is defined on an engagement connector.

79. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 77, characterized in that wherein the infusion branch is secured to an auxiliary seat and to another main seat.

80. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 77, characterized in that wherein the infusion branch and the intake branch, when engaged

to the support structure element, are placed in rectilinear arrangement, said infusion branch and said intake branch being ~~and are~~ parallel to one another.

81. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 64, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuitry comprises at least an infusion line.

82. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim ~~6 or~~ 81, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the infusion line is secured to the support element on one of said first and second opposite longer sides.

83. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 82, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the infusion line is fastened to the support ~~line~~ element so as to define at least a tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, said tube length being designed to cooperate, when in use, with a respective pump.

84. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 83, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tube length arranged as a U extends inside the peripheral wall of the support element.

85. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim ~~33 or~~ 81, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the infusion line is secured to the main body on the support structure element, at least an outlet length of the infusion line being engaged into a main seat of ~~the~~ a positioning fin and to ~~the~~ a respective engagement connector.

86. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 85, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outlet length ~~has a branching~~ branches into a pre-infusion branch designed to convey the fluid to a withdrawal branch of the blood line,

and into a post-infusion branch designed to convey the fluid to a blood return branch of the blood line.

87. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 86, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the branching of the outlet length into said pre-infusion branch and said post-infusion branch is defined on an engagement connector.

88. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 86, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pre-infusion branch is secured to an auxiliary seat and to another main seat of the positioning fin.

89. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 86, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pre-infusion branch and the post-infusion branch, when engaged to the support ~~structure~~ element, are placed in rectilinear arrangement, said pre-infusion branch and said post-infusion branch being ~~and are~~ parallel to one another.

90. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 64, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuit comprises at least a discharge line.

91. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 6 ~~or~~ 90, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge line ~~for~~ conveys a waste fluid, said discharge line being is secured to the support element on one of said first and second opposite longer sides.

92. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 91, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said discharge line is secured to the support element so

as to define at least a tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, said tube length being designed to cooperate, when in use, with a respective pump.

93. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 92, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the U-shaped tube length extends inside the peripheral wall of the support element.

94. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~33~~ or 90, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the discharge line is fastened to the main body on the opposite side with respect to the support ~~structure~~ element, an inlet length and an outlet length of the discharge line being engaged into corresponding engagement connectors.

95. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 64, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the fluid distribution circuit comprises at least an auxiliary pre-infusion line.

96. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~6~~ or 95, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the auxiliary pre-infusion line is fastened to the support element on one of said first and second opposite longer sides.

97. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 96, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ said pre-infusion line is secured to the support element so as to define at least one tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, said tube length being designed to cooperate, when in use, with a respective pump.

98. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 97, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the U-shaped tube length extends inside the peripheral wall of the support element.

99. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~33~~ or 95, characterized in that wherein the auxiliary pre-infusion line is fastened to the main body on the opposite side with respect to the support ~~structure~~ element, at least an inlet length and at least an outlet length of the auxiliary pre-infusion line being engaged into corresponding engagement connectors.

100. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 67, characterized in that wherein the length of every said at least one U-shaped tube ~~portion~~ length is smaller than or the same as $(\pi R + 2R)$, where R is the respective radius of curvature of the tube length.

101. (Currently Amended) ~~An Integrated~~ integrated module according to claim 67, ~~in which~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuit comprises further fluid lines secured to the support element, each further fluid line defining at least a tube length arranged as a U with respect to said support element, each tube length being designed to cooperate, when in use, with a respective pump, the support element having a first zone to which ~~the~~ a portion of the blood line is fastened[[,]] and at least a second zone opposite said first zone, the ~~other~~ further fluid lines being all secured on said second zone.

102. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 101, characterized in that wherein the U-shaped tube length of the blood line is longer than the tube lengths defined by the ~~other~~ further fluid lines.

103. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~64~~ 101, characterized in that wherein the U-shaped tube length of the blood line has a greater radius of curvature than the tube lengths defined by the ~~other~~ further fluid lines.

104. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts placed side by side, at least ~~the~~ a tube length of ~~the~~ a discharge line of a waste fluid being fastened to the second half-part.

105. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts placed side by side, at least ~~the~~ a tube length of ~~the~~ an intake line for fresh liquid being fastened to the first half-part.

106. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts placed side by side, at least ~~the~~ a tube length of ~~the~~ an infusion line being fastened to the first half-part.

107. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts placed side by side, at least ~~the~~ a tube length of ~~the~~ an auxiliary pre-infusion line being fastened to the second half-part.

108. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~9~~ 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first zone is partly delimited by at least one of said first and second opposite shorter sides having the curved portion and by a portion of the first opposite longer ~~sides~~ side beside said at least one of said first and second opposite shorter sides ~~side~~ having the curved portion.

109. (Currently Amended) ~~A Module~~ module according to claim ~~9~~ 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second zone is partly delimited by one of said first and

second opposite shorter sides without the curved portion and by a portion of the first opposite longer sides side beside said at least one of said first and second opposite shorter sides side without the curved portion.

110. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein[[,]] when the module is associated to an extracorporeal blood treatment machine, the first zone of the support element is placed below the second zone of the support element.

111. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 104, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein[[,]] when the module is associated to an extracorporeal blood treatment machine, the first and second half-part of the second zone of the support element are placed side by side.

112. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 5 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of said first and second opposite shorter sides without the curved portion has no tube length directly fastened thereto.

113. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 104, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second half-part half-parts are specularly symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal axis of the main body.

114. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 64, ~~in which~~ wherein said treatment unit is fastened to the main body on at least a pair of connectors.

115. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 114, characterized in that said pair of connectors is placed between counter-connectors and a portion of the fluid distribution circuit.

116. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 64, in which said treatment unit comprises:

a housing body;

at least a semipermeable membrane operating inside the housing body defining a first and a second chamber;

a first and a second counter-connector associated to the housing body and fastened to respective connectors associated to the main body, at least one of said first and second counter-connector being put into fluid communication with the second chamber of the treatment unit and with respective first end portions of said respective connectors;

at least an access door to said first chamber; and

at least an exit door from said first chamber.

117. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 116, ~~in which~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuit comprises at least a discharge line for a waste fluid, said discharge line being in ~~put into~~ communication with the a second end portion of one of said respective connectors.

118. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 117, ~~in which~~ wherein the fluid distribution circuit comprises at least an intake line for fresh dialysis liquid, said intake line being in ~~put into~~ communication with the second end portion of one of said respective connectors.

119. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 116, in which the fluid distribution circuit comprises at least a blood line having a blood withdrawal branch, said blood line being in ~~put into~~ communication with the access door to the first

chamber, and at least a blood return line, said blood return line being in put into communication with the exit door from the first chamber.

120. (Currently Amended) A Module module according to claim 101, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blood line has tubes ~~carried out with~~ comprising a different material with respect to the ~~other~~ further fluid lines.

121. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine for extracorporeal blood treatment comprising a body having ~~on its~~ a surface having a given number of pumps ~~designed~~ configured to cooperate with a fluid distribution circuitry, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the machine body has a guiding and positioning projection protruding from the surface ~~designed~~ configured to be coupled, when in use, with a respective peripheral wall of a support element in accordance with claim 4 147.

122. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 121, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guiding and positioning projection has a side surface ~~basically~~ substantially counter-shaped to the profile of the peripheral wall of the support element.

123. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 121, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said pumps protrude from the surface of the machine body, at least a part of the side surface of said pumps being counter-shaped to the peripheral wall of the support element.

124. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 123, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~[[,]]~~ when the support element is engaged to the machine, the peripheral wall of the support element surrounds the side surface of said pumps and of said guiding and positioning projection.

125. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 121, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protruding pumps and the guiding and positioning projection define together seats, ~~for instance basically semicircular, into which said~~ seats being configured to engage corresponding U-shaped tube lengths ~~are engaged~~.

126. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine for extracorporeal blood treatment according to claim 121, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said pumps is a blood pump ~~designed~~ configured to cooperate with a respective blood pump of the distribution circuitry, the machine body defining on its surface a first zone having said blood pump and at least a second zone opposite said first zone and comprising the other pumps.

127. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 126, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said pumps is an intake pump and is ~~designed~~ configured to cooperate with a respective intake line for fresh dialysis liquid of the distribution circuitry.

128. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 127, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts ~~place~~ placed side by side, the intake pump being placed in said first half-part.

129. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 126, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in operating conditions the first zone of the machine body is placed below the second zone of said machine body.

130. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 128, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in operating conditions the first and second half-part of the second zone of the machine body are placed side by side.

131. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 128, characterized in that wherein said first and second half-part are perfectly symmetrical.

132. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 126, characterized in that wherein at least one of said pumps is a suction pump designed configured to cooperate with a respective discharge line of the distribution circuitry.

133. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 132, characterized in that wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts ~~place~~ placed side by side, the suction pump being placed in said second half-part.

134. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 126, characterized in that wherein at least one of said pumps is an infusion pump designed configured to cooperate with a respective infusion line of the distribution circuitry.

135. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 134, characterized in that wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second half-parts ~~place~~ placed side by side, the infusion pump being placed in said first half-part.

136. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 126, characterized in that wherein at least one of said pumps is an auxiliary pre-infusion pump designed configured to cooperate with a respective auxiliary pre-infusion line of the distribution circuitry.

137. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 136, characterized in that wherein said second zone comprises at least ~~two~~ first and second

half-parts place side by side, the auxiliary pre-infusion pump being placed in said second half-part.

138. (Currently Amended) ~~A Machine~~ machine according to ~~one of claims 127, 132, 134, and 136~~ claim 126, characterized in that wherein said ~~blood, intake, discharge, infusion and auxiliary pre-infusion~~ pumps are peristaltic pumps.

139. (Currently Amended) ~~A Machine~~ machine according to claim 138, characterized in that wherein each peristaltic ~~pumps~~ pump comprises a moving arm rotating around a fulcrum, and an active element, said active element being fastened to the moving arm and rotating with it said moving arm, the moving arm operating on at least a deformable tube length associated thereto.

140. (Currently Amended) ~~A Machine~~ machine according to claim 139, characterized in that wherein the moving arm of the blood pump is longer than that of the other pumps.

141. (Currently Amended) ~~A Machine~~ machine according to claim 132, characterized in that it is designed said machine being configured to receive an integrated fluid treatment module including:

a support element for an integrated blood treatment module, comprising a main body having a front wall and at least a peripheral wall projecting away from said front wall, said front wall and said peripheral wall defining a housing compartment; ~~and~~

at least one blood treatment unit engaged to the support element; ~~and~~

a the fluid distribution circuitry being associated to the support element and cooperating with the treatment unit.

142. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 121, comprising an integrated fluid treatment module including:

a support element for an integrated blood treatment module, comprising a main body having a front wall and at least a peripheral wall projecting away from said front wall, said front wall and said peripheral wall defining a housing compartment; and

at least one blood treatment unit engaged to the support element; and

a the fluid distribution circuitry being associated to the support element and cooperating with the treatment unit,

~~characterized in that it comprises~~ said fluid distribution circuitry comprising a moving element operatively acting on the an infusion branch ~~and/or or~~ on the an intake branch on the support ~~structure~~ element engaged to the main body so as to selectively determine the blocking or the passage of fluid within said infusion branch or intake branch.

143. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 142, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said moving element is mounted directly onto the machine body.

144. (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 121, comprising an integrated fluid treatment module including:

a support element comprising a main body having a front wall and at least a peripheral wall projecting away from said front wall, said front wall and said peripheral wall defining a housing compartment;

at least one blood treatment unit engaged to the support element; and

a fluid distribution circuitry associated to the support element and cooperating with the treatment unit,

~~characterized in that it comprises~~ said fluid distribution circuitry comprising a further moving element acting on said a pre-infusion branch ~~and/or or~~ on said a post-infusion branch so as to selectively determine the a blocking or the a passage of fluid within said pre-infusion branch or within said post-infusion branch.

145 (Currently Amended) A Machine machine according to claim 144, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said moving element is mounted directly onto the machine body.

146. (Canceled.)

147. (Allowed) A support element for an integrated blood treatment module, comprising a main body having a front wall and at least a peripheral wall projecting away from said front wall, said front wall and said peripheral wall defining a housing compartment, said front wall being delimited by first and second opposite longer sides with a basically rectilinear development, each of said first and second opposite longer sides having first and second curved portions forming a cavity facing a respective opposite longer side, said front wall being further delimited by first and second opposite shorter sides with a basically rectilinear development, at least one of said first and second opposite shorter sides having a third curved portion configured between first and second rectilinear lengths, a cavity formed by said third curved portion facing the other of said first and second opposite shorter sides;

the support element further comprising at least one pair of tube engagement connectors, each of said at least one pair of tube engagement connectors being placed on opposite ends of each of said first, second, and third curved portions.

148. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the front wall is generally planar.

149. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the peripheral wall has at least a portion projecting away from each of said first and second opposite longer sides.

150. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the peripheral wall has at least a portion projecting away from each of said first and second opposite shorter sides.

151. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the peripheral wall projects away from said first and second opposite longer sides and said first and second opposite shorter sides of the front wall defining a basically continuous surface delimiting the housing compartment.

152. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein each of said first, second, and third curved portions is defined by an arc of circle.

153. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 152, wherein the arc of circle defining the third curved portion has a greater radius of curvature than the arc of circle defining the first and second curved portions.

154. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the housing compartment has an access opening not having a closing wall, said access opening

being configured to face a respective machine for extracorporeal blood treatment when the support element is being used.

155. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the main body has a substantially C-shaped profile sectioning a plane transverse to the front surface.

156. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the front wall has a given number of through openings putting the housing compartment in communication with an outside environment.

157. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 156, wherein at least one of said through openings is placed on each of said first, second, and third curved portions.

158. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 157, wherein each of said first, second, and third curved portions is defined by an arc of circle, said through openings placed on each of said first, second, and third curved portions being defined by round holes that are concentric with the respective arcs of circle.

159. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein said front wall is at least partly transparent.

160. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein said main body comprises a stiff material.

161. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein said front wall and said peripheral wall define a main body having a box-shaped structure having six faces, said main body being substantially closed on five out of the six faces.

162. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein at least one of said pairs of tube engagement connectors is fastened to said two rectilinear lengths of said at least one of said second opposite shorter sides.

163. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein at least one of said pairs of tube engagement connectors is respectively secured near each of said first and second curved portions.

164. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein said tube engagement connectors comprise a single piece with the main body.

165. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein said tube engagement connectors are secured to said peripheral wall.

166. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 165, wherein said tube engagement connectors are secured on a free edge of said peripheral wall.

167. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein each of said tube engagement connectors defines a gap, said gap facing the housing compartment.

168. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the support element further comprises a support structure associated to the main body, said support structure being placed laterally with respect to the main body.

169. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure is firmly secured to the main body.

170. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure comprises a single piece with the main body.

171. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure is engaged to the main body on one of said first and second opposite longer sides.

172. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 171, wherein the support structure is engaged to the main body on said first and second curved portions.

173. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure further comprises a positioning fin having a number of main seats configured to be engaged with respective tubes of a fluid distribution circuitry; said fluid distribution circuitry being associated to the support element.

174. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 173, wherein at least two of said main seats are placed on respective tube engagement connectors; said respective tube engagement connectors being placed near the first and second curved portions of one of the first and second opposite longer sides.

175. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 174, wherein said at least two main seats and the respective tube engagement connectors are configured to receive parallel tube lengths.

176. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 174, wherein the positioning fin comprises first and second further main seats, the support structure comprising first and second auxiliary portions, said first auxiliary portion being equipped with a first auxiliary seat, said second auxiliary portion being equipped with a second auxiliary seat, the first and second further main seats cooperating with respective first and second auxiliary seats so as to enable a positioning of first and second tube lengths, said first and second tube lengths being parallel to each other said first and

second tube lengths also being generally parallel to tube lengths carried by said at least two main seats.

177. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure comprises at least a first covering wall lying on a plane parallel to the plane of the front wall, said first covering wall being configured to cover at least two parallel tube lengths during operating conditions of the support element.

178. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 177, wherein the support structure further comprises at least a second covering wall lying on a plane parallel to the plane of the front wall, said second covering wall configured to cover at least two further parallel tube lengths during operating conditions of the support element.

179. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the housing compartment houses at least a portion of a fluid distribution circuitry configured to be associated to the support element.

180. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 155, wherein the main body has at least two C-shaped sections orthogonal to one another, said at least two C-shaped sections configured to divide first and second planes, said first and second planes being orthogonal to one another and transversal to the front surface.

181. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 168, wherein the support structure has a height smaller than or the same as a height of the peripheral wall of the main body.

182. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the support element further comprises at least one positioning projection associated to the main

body; said at least one positioning projection being configured to enable a correct positioning of a tube length to be associated to the support element.

183. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 182 having at least first and second positioning projections, wherein said first and second positioning projections are configured inside the housing compartment, said first and second positioning projections being generally associated to the front wall.

184. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, further comprising at least first and second connectors associated to the main body, said first and second connectors being spaced away from one another and configured to be engaged with corresponding counter-connectors of a blood treatment unit, said corresponding counter-connectors being configured for mounting onto the support element.

185. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 184, wherein said first and second connectors are directly engaged to the main body.

186. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 185, wherein the first and second connectors comprise a single piece with the main body.

187. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 184, further comprising at least a third connector spaced away from said first and second connectors, said third connector being directly engaged to the main body, said first, second, and third connectors defining pairs of connectors having a different distance between a central axis to engage corresponding pairs of counter-connectors associated to different blood treatment units, said corresponding pairs of counter-connectors being configured for mounting onto the support element.

188. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 187, wherein the third connector comprises a single piece with the main body.

189. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 184, wherein each of said first and second connectors defines a fluid passage having a first end portion configured for fluid communication with a corresponding channel present in the respective counter-connector carried by the treatment unit, each of said first and second connectors further defining a fluid passage having a second end portion configured for fluid communication with a fluid distribution circuit to be associated to the main body.

190. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 189, wherein each of said first and second connectors comprises:

- a tubular channel defining said first end portion;

- a sealing collar placed radially outside the tubular channel; and

- a connection wall developing without interruptions between an outer side surface of the tubular channel and an inner side surface of the sealing collar, said connection wall defining a ring-shaped engagement seat for each of said corresponding counter-connectors.

191. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 190, wherein the tubular channel defining said first end portion is coaxially arranged with respect to the sealing collar, said ring-shaped seat having a bottom delimited by the connection wall.

192. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 191, wherein said ring-shaped seat has a radial size increasing away from the bottom.

193. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 192, wherein said ring-shaped seat has a first zone near said bottom, said first zone having a constant radial

size, a second zone distal with respect to said bottom, said second zone having a constant radial size greater than the radial size of said first zone, and a third zone between the first and the second zone, said third zone having a size increasing progressively away from the bottom wall.

194. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 190, wherein the tubular channel and the sealing collar of each of said first and second connectors project parallel to one another from the main body defining one direction of coupling with the corresponding counter-connectors of a treatment unit.

195. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 187, further comprising a fourth connector spaced away from said first, second and third connectors, said fourth connector comprising a single piece with the main body and defining, with at least one of the first, second, and third connectors, another pair of connectors to be engaged to a corresponding pair of counter-connectors associated to a blood treatment unit; said corresponding pair of counter-connectors being configured for mounting onto the support element.

196. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 195, wherein the fourth connector comprises:

- a cylindrical central positioning body;

- a sealing collar placed radially outside the cylindrical body; and

- a connection wall developing without interruptions between an outer side surface of the cylindrical body and an inner side surface of said collar,

- said fourth connector defining an engagement and flow-closing body for a counter-connector of the treatment unit.

197. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 185, wherein said first and second connectors and said main body comprise a stiff material defining a mechanical support for said treatment unit.

198. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 187, wherein said first, second, and third connectors are aligned with each other.

199. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 185, wherein said first and second connectors are configured on one side of said main body.

200. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 184, wherein a support structure is associated to the main body, said first and second connectors and said support structure being configured laterally with respect to the main body on one of said first opposite longer sides.

201. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 200, further comprising an auxiliary structure extending laterally and outside with respect to an operating seat from a base zone of the peripheral wall, said first and second connectors projecting from the auxiliary structure.

202. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 188, wherein said first, second, and third connectors are not aligned with each other.

203. (Allowed) A support element according to claim 147, wherein the support element is configured to be coupled, when in use, to an extracorporeal blood treatment machine.